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WEDNESDAY
APRIL 28, 1954

Freddie Reinhardt came to see me at the house this morning to discuss the indirect Belgian approach to Gruenther on 18 months' military service. During the course of the morning, we arranged that Spaak and the Belgian Minister of Defense would meet Al Gruenther next Wednesday. I so notified de Staercke.

We have had a succession of beautiful days and the magnificent horse chestnuts are everywhere abloom in Paris.

Frank Giles came to see me. He thinks the fate of the EDC is now dependent upon what may ^{take place} ~~be~~ at Geneva regarding Indo-China.

I had a good talk with Graham Martin, ~~then~~ then lunched with Harold Linder, whose conversation was, as always, interesting and stimulating. He does not intend to go back to New York to live, but hopes to buy a house in Princeton and devote himself largely to his scholarly interests.

There was a meeting of the Directing Committee of EDC this afternoon at the Palais de Chaillot. Alterations were made in the text of the communiqué which had been hammered out by Spaak and de Staercke with the Foreign Ministers. It now remains to convince the Dutch Government to approve this language. De Staercke asked for us to use our good offices with the Dutch in this respect. I shall send Cleveland to The Hague tomorrow. Once again it was outside intervention, this time by Spaak, that forced the French to make up their minds on this point. Alphant told me after the meeting he was pleased over the understanding, as a result of which Marshal Juin had notified General Gruenther of his undertaking not to make any more statements in opposition to EDC.

It is apparent that the gravity of the Indo-China situation and its complications overshadow every other issue here. This is perfectly natural under the circumstances. The tactics proposed by us in March to delay consideration of the Indo-China problem at Geneva until everything had been firmed up in connection

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with the EDC debate have for some time been unrealistic and impossible. In any event, the delay in achieving agreement between the French Government and Mollet has postponed the proposed date for debate for at least another two weeks. Whether it will take place even then will depend on what occurs in Indo-China and Geneva, as well as on other events that cannot now be anticipated or predicted. The weakness of the French political system has never been more apparent than today, when the country is faced with this terrible crisis in Asia.

When I got home I found the Kippy Tucks, Nancy Lancaster and Nancy Dunraven there for cocktails. Kippy had just been staying with the Dunravens, in Ireland, and we had a long talk about salmon and trout fishing. The former was not good this year on the Dunravens' river during the time Tuck was staying there. He has agreed to take the presidency of The Travellers for twelve months.

Nancy says my godson Thadie has just taken his first communion, and I shall write him about it.

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